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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of: ) Group Art Unit: 3308  
HOLMES et al. ) Examiner: K. O.  
U.S. Patent No. 5,738,644 ) Issue Batch No.: Q63  
Serial No.: 08/483,574 ) DIVISIONAL APPLICATION  
Filed: June 7, 1995 ) INFORMATION  
Atty. File No.: 2657-21-3 )  
For: "EXTRACORPOREAL BLOOD )  
PROCESSING METHODS AND )  
APPARATUS" )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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GROUP 330

Dear Sir:

On January 23, 1998, three divisional applications were filed in response to a Restriction Requirement dated June 21, 1996. None of these divisional applications are intended to abandon this application (U.S. Application No. 08/483,574) or withdrawn the patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,738,644) from issue. The present application and patent that issued on April 14, 1998 related to Group I (Claims 14).

As mentioned above, Groups II, III and IV were filed as divisional applications on January 23, 1998. The divisional application directed toward Group III (Claims 26-30) was given U.S. Application Serial No. 09/010,077. Due to a clerical error, the specification for this application was not submitted until April 9, 1998. The divisional application directed toward Group IV (Claims 31-33) was given U.S. Application Serial No. 09/010,420. In response to a Notice of Incomplete Application, the specification for this application was filed on March 25, 1998.

The divisional application directed toward Group II (Claims 15-25) was not given a U.S. Application Serial Number on the return postcard. Similar to the other two divisional applications, the specification was omitted due to clerical error. The Group II division application was filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) and should not be interpreted as being filed as a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d). Therefore, Applicants do not intend for the Group II divisional application to expressly abandon this application (U.S Patent Application No. 08/483,574 or to act to withdrawn the patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,738,644) from issue. As such, U.S. Patent No. 5,738,644 should not be withdrawn from issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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